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Your pool
party look

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



It's exam time!

Yesterday was a day that high school seniors will remember forever: it was the day the class of 2012 took the National College Entrance Examination – the Gaokao.

But the children of migrant workers are stressing over more than just their scores.

Because students are only allowed to take the exam in their registered permanent residence, testing means returning to an unfamiliar “hometown” where the bar for university admission does not favor those from the countryside.

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Customs toughens up on art tariff dodgers

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Improved treatment for mental illness

The Ministry of Health plans to establish a treatment network for serious mental diseases that will cover 95 percent of the counties and cities nationwide by 2015.

"Mental health issues remain an obvious public health and social problem in our country as more people are suffering from depression, anxiety and other kinds of mental disorders," said a draft guideline on the country's mental health work for 2012-15, released Wednesday.

According to the draft, more than 16 million people suffer from schizophrenia and other severe mental diseases, and services and treatments for them are inadequate.

Serious mental illnesses include schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and mental retardation. People suffering from such disorders may find it difficult to control their behavior and may become a threat to others, the ministry said.

The guideline would establish formal supervision of 70 percent of patients diagnosed with severe mental diseases, while 60 percent would receive regular treatment by 2015.

The draft comes after a string of killings linked to people with mental health problems.

In one case, a 63-year-old woman killed her 8-month-old granddaughter in Hunan Province and confessed

to police in June 2011. Expert testimony showed that the woman suffered from depression for two years before killing her granddaughter.

In addition, the draft sets a goal of equipping 90 percent of community health service centers with personnel specializing in mental illnesses treatments by 2015. Psychological crisis intervention teams would be available in 90 percent of the provincial-level regions and 60 percent of the cities.

The guideline also urged mental health consultation and education services for enterprises, elderly groups and other social organizations.

(Xinhua)

Young shop owners struggle to win e-commerce race



Guests gather at the E-commerce expo to discuss a Municipal Youth League Commission proposal to encourage young people to start their own e-businesses.

Photo provided by BYD

By Niu Chen

All it takes for a woman in her 20s to start a Web business is 50,000 yuan and five employees.

That's no exaggeration: a report released on May 30 found that 23 percent of e-commerce entrepreneurs are younger than 30, more than half operate with less than 50,000 yuan of start-up capital and 56 percent have fewer than six employees.

Women account for 30 percent of the entrepreneurs.

The report, prepared by the *Beijing Youth Daily*, Xiao Hong Mao and DATA100 Market Research, is the first that investigates the needs of more than 500 young e-commerce entrepreneurs.

E-commerce remains robust in the current economy. As of December 2011, online retail sales totaled 800 billion yuan, up 56 percent over the previous year. More than 200 million Chinese shoppers bought online, a more than 28 percent increase over

the previous year.

A. T. Kearney, a global management consultancy, said it expected China's e-commerce market to exceed 1.15 trillion yuan in 2014.

Experts said that each yuan invested in e-commerce can stimulate 1,000 yuan of consumption. The e-commerce industry and its related industrial chain have created 3 million jobs.

Li Feng said that changes in lifestyles and consumption have contributed to the prosperity of e-business. Much of the boost comes from younger people who spend more time online or hunt for products that are unavailable in smaller cities.

But in spite of the strong data, e-commerce entrepreneurs face fierce competition as they share similar business models.

More than 70 percent have started a business on Taobao during the last three years: 26 percent are selling apparel and accessories and 23 percent sell

computers and consumer electronics.

More than half of the young entrepreneurs see a yearly turnover of less than 100,000 yuan, and only 9 percent have annual sales exceeding 1 million yuan.

Xu Zhiming, president and CEO of Kuaishubao.com, said funding is the main obstacle for Internet business.

"Anyone can be a shop owner through an online shop. Anyone can afford advertising via search engines. Anyone can build a brand on a microblog," he said. "The spot where young entrepreneurs get stuck is finding funding."

Fewer than 78 percent of the young entrepreneurs qualify for financing, according to the report.

Logistics and the instability of third-party companies also concern young entrepreneurs. More than 93 percent use a third-party payment system such as AliPay or PayPal, and 88 percent depend on a third-party logistics company.

Women name managers, officials as dream husbands

Managers and public servants have been deemed dream husbands by Shanghai's single women.

More than 2,600 Shanghaiese, 45 percent of them women, participated in the online survey conducted by Baihe.com. About 60 percent of the respondents were younger than 30 and more than half had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Slightly more than one-third of the female respondents said workers in management positions are their favored future husbands, and 31 percent said they favored public servants or technical personnel.

In a nationwide survey conducted by Baihe.com, public servants topped the list.

"I hope my future husband will be an administrator because the occupation gives me a sense of security. I think management personnel are responsible and have an enterprising spirit, and they have a broad view of things," said Chen Liyin, a 27-year-old worker at a trade company.

More than 64 percent of local female respondents said they would not marry a partner who did not own an apartment.

(Agencies)

British and migrant students meet for Children's Day

By Yan Yi

Students from schools for the children of migrant workers spent their Children's Day with British students at the Water Cube.

As many as 60 students from both Beijing Xing Zhi Migrant School and the British School of Beijing attended the event, organized by the Beijing National Aquatics Center and Beijing Communist Youth League Committee.

Students participated in Olympic activities, including watching the London 2012 Intro Video, exploring the training facilities of the Water Cube and doing a simulated torch relay.

A series of London Olympics Introduction Videos were shown to students during the activity, including a brief presentation by British artists during the Beijing Olympics Closing Ceremony.

"It is amazing to welcome the London 2012 with Chinese friends here," said Ann Rahman, a 15-year-old girl from London. "It was especially interesting seeing (the video about) how the Olympic stadium was built in London during the past five years."

Fiona Boyle, a British student from the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, introduced the London 2012 Olympic slogan — "Inspire a Generation" — to her Chinese peers.

"It is my first time visiting the Water Cube," said one of the students from the migrant school. "It is a valuable chance for me to make friends with foreign students and learn more about the Olympics."

Sitting the Gaokao

Migrants dread exam's requirements more than its content

Yesterday was a day many students will remember forever: the day more than 9.15 million of them attended the National College Entrance Examination – the Gaokao.

The exam involved students and their families, who provide an essential support network. But for the children of migrant workers, it's not just the scores that count.



Students celebrate with each other after the first day of Gaokao. CFP Photos

When they woke up Thursday morning, high school seniors across the country began one of the most stressful tests of their lives: the National College Entrance Examination, a complex test held over two days in two-hour sessions.

For the children of migrant workers, the stress began even earlier.

These students had to leave their parents and travel thousands of kilometers back to their hometowns to enroll at schools they thought they'd left behind.

The yearly test had renewed the focus on the predicament of those children, who are barred from taking the test anywhere except their birth province.

But things may be changing, particularly in the provinces of Shandong, Guangdong and Fujian.

Shandong Province will be the first to implement a new policy that allows students who are not registered permanent residents to sit the exam at its schools. It announced the policy in May, and the changes will come into effect in 2014.

Fujian Province is introducing a similar plan.

In May, Guangdong Province announced plans for a 2014 pilot program that would open the exam to the children of migrant workers. The province is home to more than 36.7 million migrants – more than any other province. 3.39 million of their children are in primary and junior school, and that figure is growing by 250,000 each year.

Not an answer

One migrant worker from Hunan Province surnamed He isn't celebrating the change.

"When my daughter heard this news, she was so excited, but I still have my concerns," said He, whose 12-year-old is in her second year of junior high and preparing to take the high school entrance exam.

He said he was concerned about the lack of details on university enrollment for migrants' children.

The bigger question with exam reform concerns university admissions rather than testing locations.

Currently, each province and city has different thresholds for admission to the same universities. For example, students from Beijing and Shanghai who are admitted to the top universities would be seen to have only average scores in other provinces.

Xiao Ji, 18, followed his parents to Guangdong Province, where he has studied since elementary school. He's now a senior high school student in Guangzhou, but he will have to return to his hometown in Chongqing to take the national exams.

Xiao cannot sit the exam anywhere except his registered permanent residence, but he can't even sit the exam there unless he is enrolled in a local school.

"It's unfair. My parents have worked so hard in Guangdong for so many years. Why do their children have to go back to start from the beginning?" Xiao said.

In 2010, there were more than

220 million Chinese working or living in cities other than their hometowns. In Beijing, the number of residents without permanent residence in the city has reached 7 million, or 36 percent of the total population.

The proportion is slightly higher in Shanghai, and in Shenzhen exceeds 77 percent.

A huge number of the people living in cities other than their registered, permanent residence will never go back to their hometowns – their careers, family, property and social life are rooted in their new homes.

However, the current college enrollment system only permits students to take the admissions test in the city, village or county where they were first registered.

The issue with migrant workers' children involves the redistribution of education resources and government budgets.

The number of registered high school students determines the size of a local government's subsidies, said Zhang Jishun, the former communist party secretary at East China Normal University. If a migrant worker's child takes the exam in a different city, then the allocation of those subsidies will be confused.

Any solution to the problem will have to be led by the central government, Zhang said.

Any would-be reformers will need the courage to create a new system that balances the interests of local government, educators, colleges, universities, local residents and migrants.

(Agencies/Beijing Today)

Sidelights

Fewer students to take the exam

This year, 9.15 million students will sit the National College Entrance Examination – 75 percent will make it into college, the Ministry of Education said.



Liang Shi

According to the ministry, the number of exam participants has fallen 2 percent from last year, while the admission rate has increased 3 percent.

Only 12 provinces saw a surge in the number of students taking the exam this year, as the nation's colleges plan to enroll 6.85 million students, 100,000 more than 2011.

In fact, the drop in exam participants and rising admissions have been trends since 2008, when the number of participants peaked at 10.5 million with an admission rate of 57 percent.

The falling number of exam takers is in line with the decline in the youth population, but students headed abroad could also be depressing these figures.

Last year, 76,000 students took the exam in Beijing out of more than 126,000 graduates. This year, the number of exam takers is only 73,460.

45-year-old takes exam for 16th time

By Yan Yi
Liang Shi, 45, is preparing to take the National College Entrance Examination for the 16th time in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Last year, he scored 337 out of 750 points on the test – 64 points short of college admission.

Liang has spent six hours each day preparing for the test. He plans to try again in 2013 if he fails this year.

The aged businessman took the exam for the first time as a 16-year-old, but failed the first stage. After retaking the exam five years in a row, the test's age limit forced Liang to give up his dream and find work in a timber company.

In 2011, the government abolished the age limit and Liang, a successful business man and a father of an 8-year-old, decided to prepare for the exam once again.

Liang came to attention last year, when media reports compared him to a modern Fan Jin, a tragic intellectual of the Ming Dynasty who went mad after passing the Imperial Exam in his 50s.

"I've dreamed of entering college since I was very young," Liang said. "I can't give that up."

He is applying for admission to the mathematics program at Sichuan University.

Photographer bring real British Rock



David Elliot and Jill Furmanovsky speaking at the Rockarchive exhibition in Beijing.



Photos of Pink Floyd and Oasis by Jill Furmanovsky
Photo by Liu Xiaochen

By Liu Xiaochen

Jill Furmanovsky, an award-winning photographer who has specialized in shooting British rock musicians for 40 years, founded the organization Rockarchive in 1998 to meld photographic art and music.

The idea of Rockarchive was to bring rarely-before-seen works to rock fans and photography enthusiasts. The project has proved to be an astounding success.

Furmanovsky's Rockarchive is now in Beijing, with an exhibition of 50 pictures spanning more than 50 years.

The start of Rockarchive

When Furmanovsky's friend, an exhibition designer, first told her in the '90s that her photos would one day all be stored in a computer, she thought he was crazy.

"I thought he was dreaming," Furmanovsky said. "But he was right. Because of technology, I decided to found Rockarchive."

In 1998, during one of Furmanovsky's big exhibitions for the band Oasis, one of the sponsors, Epson Company, donated a printer, scanner and digital cameras. Just like that, Furmanovsky had all the equipment she needed to go digital.

What began as a website for one band evolved into an online warehouse of pictures for an entire genre of music.

It was slow going at first, though. There were only 30 pictures in the beginning, and not many visitors.

But Furmanovsky had the contacts to make the project grow, and she didn't mind that the website wasn't profitable.

"I had a chance to join a tour with Pink Floyd when I was 19 years old," she said. "I did not ask how much I could earn. The secret to the many innovations in British rock is that people working in it have great passion for it."

In 2002, Furmanovsky opened a gallery in London with some of her pictures. It was a small space, but some visitors who went inquired about how to purchase the works.

Some were sold at £100 (984 yuan), but usually they went for £20 to £50.

The works are now valued at thousands of pounds.

"When I was young, rock 'n' roll was rubbish music and photography was rubbish art," Furmanovsky said. "Now we are in the digital age ... everything is changed. People are starting to buy the photos."

"For us, as photographers, we have a chance now to make money from these old photos. We worked for very little money originally; you had to do other jobs. But now it's valuable."

Photography as work

When Furmanovsky started, the rock business was very much for men. But the young Furmanovsky kept working hard, driven by her passion for the business.

Wherever she goes, her work remains her focus.

"I don't talk too much," she said. "I watch."

She's seen quite a few remarkable things, too, leading to unforgettable experiences.

While shooting in the pit under the stage one time, something fell on her head, sending her to the hospital.

Another time, shooting Oasis in Manchester City's soccer stadium in 1996,

"I was standing just behind them when they came on the stage," she said. She marveled at the crowd and the houses in the background. "It was a beautiful moment in my life," she said.

She was in the studio with Pink Floyd when they recorded "Wish You Were Here."

And once, "A member of U2 came and kissed me. There were cameras and big screens, everybody saw the kiss. There were 80,000 people!"

Furmanovsky said of all the people she's photographed, her best subjects are always the ones who don't care how they look.

"If they love (the picture), sometimes I don't want to use it because they're not interesting," she said. "They're always thinking about their hair or clothes, and they ask me. I'm not a stylist."

The exhibition's future

Furmanovsky said she thinks her exhibition is a good marriage of rock music and photography. She said she hopes Chinese people can learn more about her organization and also provide feedback on the works.

David Elliott, curator of this exhibition, said he hopes to connect British art schools, artists and art fans with those in China.

Furmanovsky said she hopes Rockarchive will do well because it's a good project, and it enables her to keep shooting.

"I have many ambitions," she said. "I have been very hardworking. Many times it's not easy to make money, but it's a very interesting career. I enjoy it."

"Although I can't show you how to earn money, I hope that doing such things can give you great joy and satisfaction."

Economic forum connects Poland and China

By Liu Xiaochen

The Poland-China Economic Forum opened on May 30, with Poland's deputy prime minister and minister of economy, Waldemar Pawlak, in attendance.

Pawlak said Poland, as an important member of the European Union, can not only provide a broad market for Chinese enterprises, but also open the door to the European market for Chinese investors.

The forum was organized by the Poland Ministry of Economy, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and Commercial Office of the Poland Embassy.

More than 300 top executives from Poland and China, in the fields of energy, fuel, coal, heavy machinery, transportation, food, medicine, IT and luxury goods, participated in this forum.

The vice chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Yu Ping, said it was the most important period for China and central and eastern European countries' development.

"Both of these two economies are highly complementary, with a great potential for cooperation, especially considering the international financial crisis and debt crisis," Yu said.



At the forum on economic cooperation between China and Poland last week in Beijing.

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

He said to create a good condition for the sustained and healthy development of trade, his organization would like to cooperate with business associations in Eastern European countries such as Poland.

Li Lu, vice chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, pointed out that the forum was a good platform for communication.

"Economic and trade cooperation is an important foundation for the development of the relationship between the

two countries," he said. "China is the largest developing country and Poland is China's largest trading partner in Eastern Europe."

Representatives of Poland and China all supported cooperation between the two countries and gave their own suggestions.

Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik, the economic deputy minister, said Poland's history and culture are attractive for tourism.

The head of the Industrial Development Bureau of

Poland, Wojciech Dabrowski, said the marine and wind power industry was of utmost importance for the economy.

"The equipment manufacturing enterprises of two countries should cooperate with each other," Dabrowski said.

The head of Poland's Enterprise Development Bureau, Bozena Lublinska-Kasprzak, said it was important to strengthen the cooperation between small and medium enterprises and to support start-ups.

"99.8 percent of the enterprises in Poland are small and medium enterprises. We have supported 31,200 enterprises with \$75 billion," she said.

Representatives of China also analyzed the situation today with examples.

The production manager of the Bank of China, Tang Maoheng, said the first Polish branch of Bank of China will open in June.

There were also other cases about cars, household appliances and software.

Foreign politicians flock to open Weibo

By Niu Chen

Sina Weibo, with more than 300 million users, was sure to cause more than a few foreigners to gravitate toward its service. More than 300 foreign politicians have opened accounts on Sina Weibo, China's most popular microblogging platform.

Even the governor of Nebraska, Dave Heineman, has a Weibo account. His first message, posted May 10, was, "Hi, China." An hour earlier, Jim Suttle, mayor of Omaha, Nebraska, greeted China on his just-opened Weibo account in Chinese: "Hello Chinese friends! I'm Jim, mayor of Omaha. You're welcome in Omaha to find me!"

Many Chinese users greeted them back by saying, "Welcome to China" and "Welcome to Weibo." Others questioned his real identity and were stunned by his use of Chinese.

Heineman and Suttle are not alone.



Neil Bush dances with his daughter, Ashley, at the wedding of Lauren Bush and David Lauren.

Kevin Rudd, former minister of foreign affairs and prime minister of Australia, opened his Weibo account on April 18. He was introduced to Weibo by China's famous anchorman, Rui Chenggang.

Like Rudd, many other foreign politicians, who are already on Twitter, are using Weibo to reach wider audiences. Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, and Christine Lagarde, managing director of International Monetary Fund, were introduced to Weibo by their staff members working in China.

Rudd shared his schedule and family life with Weibo users, including the birth of his granddaughter, his 18-year-old son learning Chinese at Peking University and dining with Chinese entrepreneurs. Rudd said he cares about Chinese students studying in Australia and has tried to gather their opinions.

Rudd's knowledge of Chinese contributes greatly to his popularity on Weibo — he has more than 185,000 fans. Chinese netizens often correct his grammar and vocabulary in the comments, which

Rudd happily accepts.

He casually jokes on Weibo about his Chinese mistakes, once writing: "Many people ask if I write my own posts in Chinese. Of course. That explains why there are so many mistakes in the posts."

But unlike Rudd, most foreign politicians have their assistants or press officers manage their account. Neil Bush, brother of George W. Bush, was upfront about this. "I don't type Chinese," he wrote in his first post. "I can only speak a little. My assistants will translate my posts."

Bush represents the most popular US politician on Weibo, with 120,000 followers. His 549 posts have largely been devoted to helping others "learn more about the Bush family." On March 25, he posted several pictures taken at the wedding of Lauren Bush (George W. Bush's niece) and David

Lauren (son of Ralph Lauren) in September. His posts about the wedding of Blaine Grunwald and Yuan Li, a famous Chinese actress, got forwarded 204 times.

Other politicians post in English. Boris Johnson, the mayor of London, often writes posts with "RT" (retweet), suggesting that he simply links his Twitter and Weibo feeds. He opened his Weibo account on April 12, roughly a month before London's mayoral election.

Johnson's posts include his reelection initiatives. His competitors, Brian Paddick and Ken Livingstone, also created Weibo accounts before the election.

Others, like Edwin M. Lee, the mayor of San Francisco, start Weibo accounts to reach out to their communities, which feature large Chinese populations. It's just yet another part of a trend that will continue to grow.

Click to donate

College students create Web games to promote charity

By Yan Yi

Philanthropists who find themselves too busy with their daily routine may have a way to lend a helping hand after all. The click-to-donate website Dazuo Xiaoti.com, created by four college students, makes it possible for people to help others by simply answering a couple of online questions every month.

Inspired by freerice.com, a popular online quiz site in the US that gives rice to the needy, Huang Hai and other three college students launched their version in July 2011.

Like freerice.com, Dazuo Xiaoti challenges people to answer multiple-choice questions based on popular topics. In the topic of *The Big Bang Theory*, for example, participants are asked: which is Sheldon's favorite dinner on Mondays?

For every 20 correct answers, a tree, provided by a sponsor, will be donated to arid areas like the banks of the Yellow River.

Currently, the site counts more than 44,000 players and has donated about 15,000 items, including desk, backpacks and trees.

Three-week volunteering is not enough

While the operation model of the site seems rather commercial – connecting players and enterprises – co-founder Huang said it is not the money that brings them together. The idea originated in their experience as volunteer teachers at a camp.

Huang, currently a senior student at the University of Hong Kong, served as a voluntary English teacher in a remote village in Shanxi Province in 2008. There, he met his high school classmate Wang Chen, co-founder of the site.

The three-week-long project helped a village school that was short on teachers and teaching materials.

"We came to realize that a voluntary project lasting one or two months wouldn't be helpful enough," Huang said. "The village needs long-term and continuous help, and the Internet may be a way to supply it."

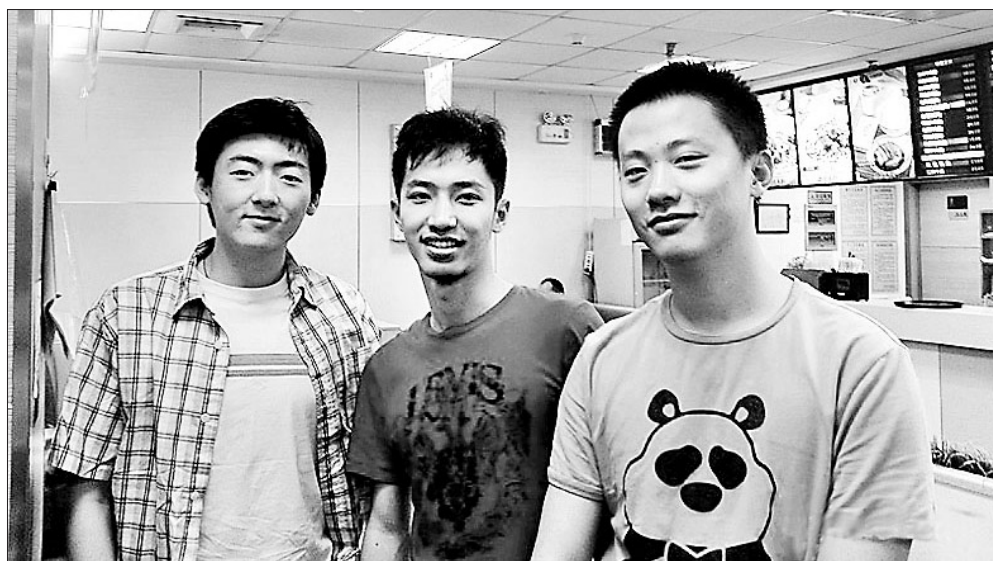
Take off for something new

Huang and Wang applied to take a year off from college to launch Dazuo Xiaoti. They posted their proposal on Face-



The click-to-donate website xiaotidazuo.com

Photos provided by Huang Hai



From left, Bai Haotian, Wang Chen and Sun Bowen

book, and were soon joined by Bai Haotian and Sun Bowen from UC Berkeley.

Initially, the four wanted to establish a website platform to help students search for opportunities to volunteer based on their interest, location and available time. That plan faltered though, since it cost too much to maintain the search platform.

They then rethought their plan and agreed that a click-to-donate website was the most practical thing they could build. "We made a detailed analysis of non-profit websites overseas and finally came to realize that click-to-donate is the perfect choice."

In the early stage of development, the team members struggled to balance between their course work and website work, and gradually they all

realized that working full-time would accelerate the process.

Eventually, they submitted an application to take a year off school.

"To apply for a temporary withdrawal is not a big deal," Huang said. "You submit an official application and an internship certificate to the college, and soon there will be a reply. At least that was it for me."

But their parents thought otherwise. They worried whether they could continue their study and meet the academic requirements to graduate.

"You certainly cannot tell them directly, 'I've decided to quit college for a year,'" Huang said. "Instead of using the word quit or withdraw, we tried to introduce the concept of gap year to our par-

ents and convince them that it's not a big deal for students overseas."

Anything but interesting

Huang, with his team, rented an apartment. The four lived together and worked full-time. Like most young start-ups, they didn't follow a set timetable or take weekends or holidays off.

Sun and Bai were in charge of design, while Wang and Huang took the role of PR managers, contacting corporations and seeking sponsors.

In order to cover daily costs, they also took up part-time jobs.

"Some of my schoolmates say that the idea of taking a gap year is cool and our work is very interesting," Huang said. "But to be honest, few of

them would actually do this."

The difficulty the team currently faces is getting the word out. "We've participated in many activities and conferences where there might be potential sponsors," Huang said. Normally, they get about 50 business cards after a conference and call all of them the day after.

"Few reply, and if we are lucky, maybe five out of 50 will even show interest," Huang said. "It's challenging to make the company understand what we are doing exactly, as there are few nonprofit websites in China, and the click-to-donate model is a totally new concept for the public."

But Huang's efforts haven't been in vain. The group got its first deal with 1kg.org, a website that encourages travelers to carry a kilogram or more of books or stationeries to rural students.

Datixiaozuo launched on October 2011. Nearly 900 users have participated, and 16 boxes of books have been donated to rural libraries.

Now, as their gap year is set to end, the four are preparing to head back to school. But Huang said they plan to run the website in their spare time.

He said he was thinking of expanding his team, reaching out to voluntary programs.

"We are always talking about changing the world, but the problem is in which way, and to what extent can we make that difference," Huang said.

All outdoor swimming pools open this month

By Cui Can

The only aquatic park within Third Ring Road, Qingnianhu Park Water Park, opened last week, indicating Beijing's outdoor swimming season has officially begun.

The water park was renovated this year, particularly the shower stalls and solar panels that heat the water, a park supervisor said.

The new entertainment facility includes a high-resolution movie screen, water-slides and inflatable balls.

Furthermore, the water quality in Qingnianhu Water Park is guaranteed due to its "24-hour water filtration system," which circulates the water in the pool for sterilization every four hours.

There is also advanced



At Qingnianhu Park

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

monitoring system that is monitored by 10 professional lifeguards. Doctors at a nearby clinic are also on call in case of accidents.

Qingnianhu Water Park

Where: Ande Li Bei Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: 9 am - 5 pm
Tel: 8411 1485

Cost: 30 yuan and 20 yuan for children under 1.3 meters

Chaoyang Park Swimming Pool

Where: 1 Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 9 am - 5 pm
Tel: 6595 3972
Cost: 25 yuan

Water Magic Cube (Shuimofang)

Where: 11 Xiaotun Lu, Fengtai District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 8860 9999
Cost: 200 yuan

Tuanjiehu Park Water Park

Where: 16 Tuanjiehu Nan Li, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6506 1364
Cost: 40 yuan on weekdays, 50 yuan on weekends

Olympic Memorial Wall opens to public

By Cui Can

Olympics enthusiasts may have another place to explore in the capital, as the Beijing Olympic Memorial Wall opened to the public.

The 365-meter-long wall is located at Torch Square, northwest of the Bird's Nest. It sits next to a sculpture of Olympic rings.

The western part of the wall bears the engraved names of 2008 Olympic winners, while the east side has the names of Paralympic winners.

"It represents the slogan of the Beijing Olympics: 'Two games, equal splendor,'" said Yu Huayun, an official from the City Planning Commission.

A large replica of 2008 medals rests on the top of the western wall.

"Olympic medals seem really small on TV," said a visitor surnamed Wang. "This is the first time I've gotten to see the Olympic medals clearly."



Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

The wall is a five-minute walk from Exit A of the Olympic Green station on Subway Line 8. Admission is free.

The wall will be a permanent display in the Olympic Park.

First cloisonné museum opened

Cloisonné is a traditional technique used in making porcelain. The first cloisonné museum with collections dating back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and other masterpieces opened to public this week.

Where: Beijing Falan Chang, 10 Anlelin Lu, Yongdingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 9 am - 5 pm
Tel: 6721 1677



CFP Photo

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I moved to Caocangdi, where I can live in a spacious workshop for a lot cheaper. However, I've found it difficult to get cabs to go downtown. Any suggestions?

Many compounds on the outskirts of town have self-organized car service groups, with drivers that hang out at the compound gate all day. Some people prefer making friends with these drivers and finding one they trust. When they need a car, they just call one.

Recently, our downstairs neighbor complained to us that our bathroom is leaking water into their apartment. I spoke with the service office at the compound and they say I need to talk to my landlord, but he's moved to Canada and doesn't plan on returning for at least a year. What do I do?

A bathroom leak might mean you need to hire someone to redo your bathroom floor. It might take one or two weeks. Normally, such workers are found through word-of-mouth. See if any of your Chinese neighbors can provide recommendations.

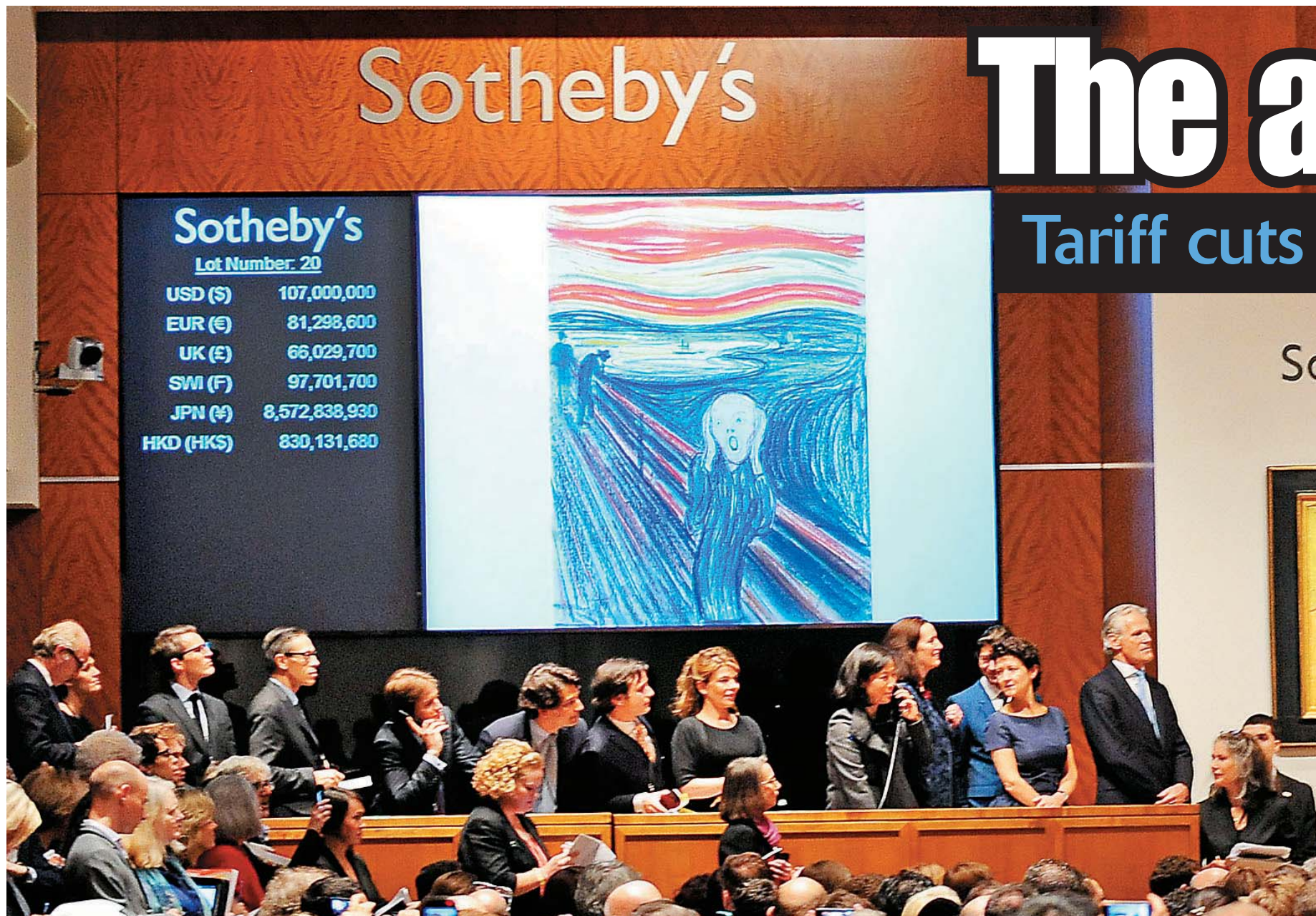
I just moved to Beijing and am looking for an apartment. I've contacted some real estate agents, but I'm still confused by the rules: should I pay the agencies or will the landlord pay? How much does it generally cost?

Normally, for low-price residential apartments under 3,000 yuan per month, you have to pay for the agent, which is normally a month's pay. For better apartments, especially expensive ones, the landlord pays. Normally, the landlord will factor the fee into your rental cost. Also, when you rent an apartment, you have put down a deposit of one month and pay rent every three months.

Does somebody know where I can get LASIK surgery here?

You can get it done at most hospitals' optometry department, such as Tongren or Chaoyang Hospital. The price is around 10,000 yuan, and will vary depending on your needs.

(By Wei Ying)



"The Scream," by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch, at the Sotheby's Auction House in New York on May 2. The painting sold for \$107 million (680 million yuan).

Stepping up inspection

There was a time when Chinese art buyers dominated the world auction scene, burning money on ancient paintings and contemporary art. Last year, the country grabbed more than 30 percent of the world's art sales.

But trade has become a headache for overseas Chinese dealers.

China has the highest tariff on fine art across the world, levying fees of more than 30 percent on collectors who wish to bring their acquisitions home.

The average tariff in most countries is about 5 percent, and is even lower in major art markets.

The government has heard the call.

Earlier this year, the State Council revised its tariffs on original paintings and sculptures, lowering them from 12 to 6 percent. Experts see this as a sign that customs inspectors will soon be on the lookout for art smugglers.

On April 6, several senior officials from Integrated Fine Arts Solutions (IFAS) were detained by customs officials for allegedly contributing to tax evasion. Two days later, managers at an artwork transport company called Beijing Noah were also called in by customs investigations.

The companies provide art shipping services for domestic collectors who purchase art abroad.

Two foreign galleries, one located in Beijing and the other in Shanghai, soon became involved in the scandal when expensive pieces bought by between five and six brokers were seized by customs, *China Economic Weekly* reported.

Yu Deyao, a Shanghai art collector, was called by customs officials for "a talk" — one that allegedly involves 40 million yuan in unpaid tariffs.

On May 21, *Oriental Morning Post* reported that Wu Jin, a famous art broker was being detained for tax evasion. Representatives of Christie's and Sotheby's in Beijing have also been implicated.

Crackdown on evasion

The sudden inspections have triggered a serious discussion on China's unusually high tariffs.

The domestic art market has seen breakneck growth, with Chinese artists participating in international exchanges and being sought after by foreign collectors. But with increasing wealth, many Chinese collectors who have the means prefer to fly abroad to find art that appeals to them.

But art organizations and institutes say the high tariffs have

made it difficult for the market to survive the Financial Crisis. Many insiders still think the tariffs are too high compared to the tariffs in Canada, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In addition to the tariff, Chinese collectors must pay 12 percent in value added tax and 12 percent of imported works by as much as 30 percent.

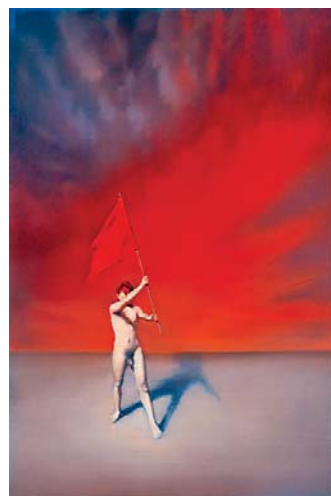
"Even with the tariff halved, China has the highest taxes on art," said Dong Jie, a collector at the Beijing Art Fair.

"Ordinarily, it would be understandable if the market is in a chaotic state," said Xia Yang, a collector who has spread to the masses, and high taxes are a barrier.

"If tax evasion is the only way to get art home, collectors choose to do so," the *Oriental Morning Post* editorial. To evade tax obligations, many collectors undervalue their pieces when they export them across the border.

Lasting effects

Analysts have said a more aggressive crackdown will cast a shadow on the art market.



Works by Zeng Fanzhi, one of the artists being asked to assist in the crackdown.

Art of dodging taxes

signal increased scrutiny in customs

By Zhou Xu

The government recently slashed the tariffs on imported art from 12 to 6 percent to support the country's booming art trade. But local collectors and dealers have been slow to support the change.

Even halved, China's art taxes remain the world's highest, leading most collectors to sneak art into the country without paying duty.

Experts see the move as a signal that the government is encouraging true customs declarations and tightening its inspection of the import sector.

Sotheby's



CFP Photo

fully recover from the last Global said the new 6-percent tariff is levied by the US, UK, Japan, Taiwan.

buyers must pay an additional 17 percent in sales tax, boosting the price 20 percent.

China is still the country with the Mengyang, who organizes the Art

standable. However, the art market duo, a critic. "Art is just beginning to could halt that trend."

to survive, then that will be what *ental Morning Post* said in an edi-many art institutions, galleries and on customs forms or smuggle art

essive approach to customs inspection industry.

Business at Christie's and Sotheby's will be directly affected, and that could come back to bite Chinese auction houses.

"This is not conducive to the sound development of the art industry, and will deal a severe blow to sales at domestic galleries and expositions," Xia said.

Art fairs relying on galleries to survive will become less attractive to those outside the galleries, and foreign galleries representing Chinese artists will choose to move their collections to Hong Kong.

"This will force more and more art exchanges to be concentrated in duty-free areas," Xia said.

The enthusiasm of domestic art dealers and collectors will also suffer as more become ensnared in customs inspections.

However, Zheng Kefeng, director of Bellepack Beijing Transport, said the advantages of strengthened inspections will pay off in the long run.

Inspections can help to efficiently regulate the problematic art market and stimulate the government to further revise its tariff policy.

"It at least temporarily cools the hot market for Chinese antiques and art abroad, and puts an end to price gouging and bubbles being driven by second-rate works. This holds down foreign exchange by domestic collectors, art dealers and even the government," Zheng said.

Dong said customs inspections are a sign that the market is becoming mature enough to merit government oversight.

Tariff revision

But the heart of the matter is still the high tax rate itself, not simply the art tariff or the customs inspections.

"Solving the problem of how to tax art will be on the agenda sooner or later," said Bai Hong, president of Dezi Gallery. "As for art tariffs, they must be implemented and enforced to control the flow of property and foreign-exchange reserves."

Dong Guoqiang, president of Council Action House, said China's current art tariffs are almost equal to the tariffs on luxury goods. It is out of step with the goal of seeing art used to fulfill people's cultural needs.

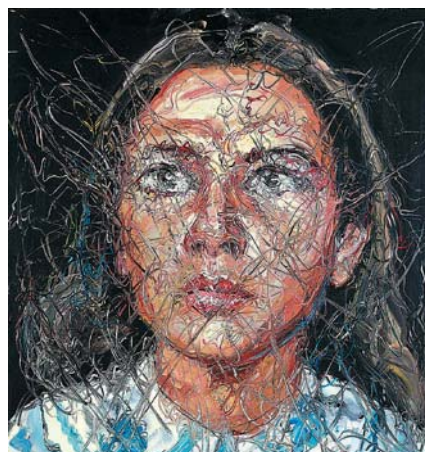
Cui Cancan, a critic of contemporary art, said that although citizens in every nation pay taxes, Chinese taxpayers are unusually removed from the process of levying taxes and deciding how the money is used.

Dong Mengyang, director of the Art Gallery Association in Beijing, reportedly sent a proposal to the General Tax Bureau of the Ministry of Finance about how tariffs should be tuned.

Insiders said they expect the random customs inspections to continue for some time.



Customs crackdown.



Photos provided to Beijing Today

'Taiwan, Taiwan'

explores island's forgotten history

By Zhao Hongyi

The history of Taiwan has long been a popular topic on the Chinese mainland since the return of Hong Kong and Macau in the 1990s.

But Taiwan's history is a story of misfortune.

The past decade has given rise to a popular opinion that Taiwan's history only begins with the arrival of Dutch sailors and colonists in 1692.



Zhao Guoming

Taiwan, Taiwan, a newly published book of history and poetry, counters that the island has a much longer history and connection with the mainland.

Zhao Guoming, the author, said the first group of settlers on the island included "southerners" from Southeast Asia and the Pacific islands, as well as Chinese from the mainland.

Some 20,000 years ago, the Earth's climate was much cooler and the sea level was lower. Most of the Taiwan Strait was land and the strait was much narrower than it is today. The island actually shares the same continental shelf with the mainland.

This offered the possibility for the settlers from the mainland to cultivate the island, as is confirmed by archaeological evidence.

The mainlanders who migrated to the island were from the coastal provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangsu, and they moved there during the Shang (1600-1046 BC) and Zhou (1046-256 BC) dynasties.

The earliest written evidence of this migration dates back to the Three Kingdoms era. Sun Quan, ruler of the Kingdom of Wu by the Yangtze River Delta, sent two generals and their troops to explore land to the south.

The troops landed on Taiwan, but were devastated by severe weather and disease. The troops withdrew after several years of occupation.

After that, the island appears frequently in the historical record, along with the Ryukyu Kingdom, or modern Okinawa. In fact, the Ryukyu Kingdom was a dependency of the Chinese mainland for thousands of years. During this time, Japanese pirates began raiding the coastal cities of China from their bases on Taiwan and the Ryukyu Kingdom.

Dutch troops settled in Taiwan in the beginning of the 17th century. Several decades later, when Manchu invaders toppled the Ming Dynasty, Ming general Zheng Chenggong led the remaining army to Taiwan, where he drove out the Dutch and the Japanese.

Two decades later, the Manchurians defeated Zheng's troops and reclaimed Taiwan.

The island remained part of China until 1895, when the Qing Dynasty navy was defeated by the Japanese. The Japanese forced the Qing government to cede them Taiwan and pay 230 million taels of silver as war reparations.

The Japanese occupied Taiwan for the next 50 years, improving and modernizing the island's infrastructure throughout World War II. Many Taiwanese were conscripted by the Japanese military and sent to fight throughout Southeast Asia.

Taiwan returned to China in 1945 after the Japanese defeat.

The author, Zhao, is a senior editor at *Beijing Youth Daily*. Having earned a master's degree in history in the early 1980s, Zhao has a strong grasp of the stories behind the events.

The book draws on written records, photos and books to reconstruct 50,000 years of Taiwan's development. Many of the sources have never before been cited in publication.

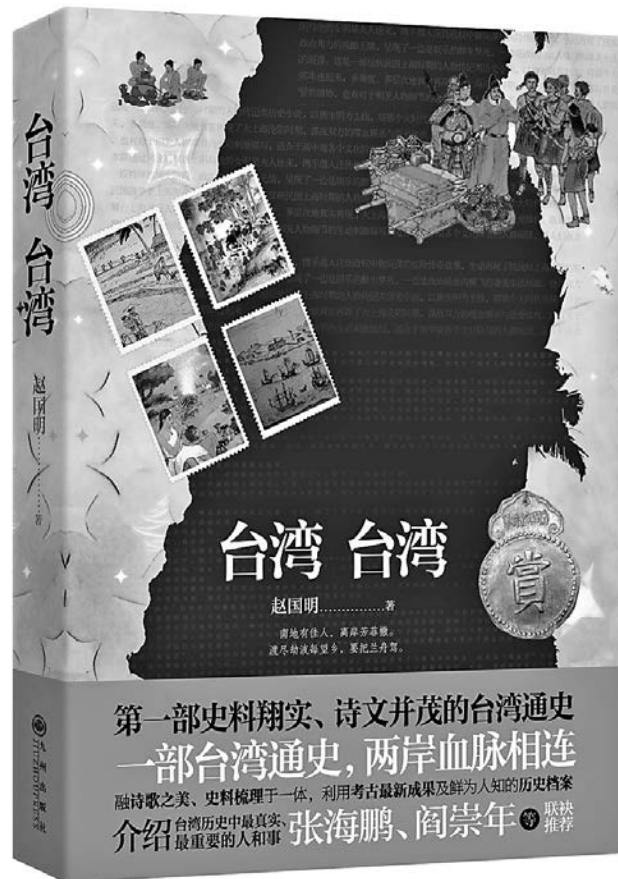
He uses poetic narrative and a chronological structure to depict the important historical events of Taiwan, as well as its folktales and literary figures.

"The text of *Taiwan, Taiwan* is unprecedented in China's 3,000-year history," Huang Xianhua, vice president of Jiuzhou Press and editor of the book, wrote in the foreword.

"There are many short stories that take a poetic approach to enhance their artistic appeal in a way that has only been achieved in Cao Xueqin's *Dream of the Red Chamber*."

Publisher: Jiuzhou Press House

Price: 39.80 yuan



Cover of *Taiwan, Taiwan*



Zheng Chenggong and his army drive out the Dutch to reclaim the island.

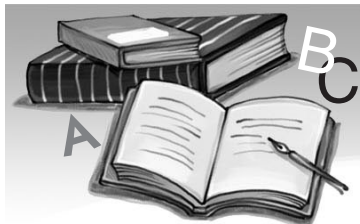


As early as Sui Dynasty, mainlanders were trading with the Taiwanese aborigines.



Most Taiwan natives are farmers, relying on rice cultivation techniques and culture learned from the Chinese mainland.

Photos provided by Zhao Guoming



News for kids, by kids.

No one knows better than Chinese parents how the future depends on children: most spare no effort to be “wolf dads” and “tiger moms” to send their children down the path to success.

As part of its commitment to young readers, *Beijing Today*, together with *Middle School Times* and *Beijing Children's Weekly*, is beginning a weekly education report to share the views and events happening in the lives of Chinese youth.

What are they saying?



What should our media report?

Each year, the annual NPC (National People's Congress) and CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) is held in March or April in Beijing.

The two national meetings gather well-known celebrities, as well as the national and international media. Their reports occupy the headlines of nearly all newspapers and broadcast stations.

The reports tell much about the latest development of our country.

But unfortunately, many reports are focusing on deputies to the NPC and the members of the CPPCC, presenting their proposals as entertainment news and distorting the seriousness of their work.

TV showed reporters gathering around the Great Hall of the People, where the meetings are held, but neglected to mention what was happening inside.

“Hi, which deputy is this?” was the most heard question.

Other reports focused on the luxury apparel of the deputies, such as an H&M belt, a Chanel necklace or a 240,000 yuan watch. Some wrote about what the deputies were reading.

This approach is totally wrong!

The two meetings are the most important political sessions in our country and the chance to resolve problems with our development and law. Treating them as entertainment might win attention, but it completely loses the point of these meetings.

Although the Internet has become very popular in China today, websites are focusing on these worthless bits rather than serious bills and proposals.

When proposals are mentioned, the reports resemble a long and muddled list that discourages readers from having a clear idea about the issues being discussed.

Political meetings are not



Illustrated by Chen Bing

like the World Expo or the Olympic Games: the sidelines should not be the focus.

A proposal that affects people's livelihoods is much more important and has more value. Premier Wen Jiabao's

emphasis on economic and political reform is more important than the apparel worn by the deputies.

The two meetings are pushing reforms further, both economically and polit-

ically: the media needs to reform as well. Congress is a serious matter that demands serious coverage.

— Guo Haoran, student,
Haidian Experimental
High School

What do they care about?



Who will help Grandma Ding?

This February, a fire in a Houhai courtyard killed 150 cats and dogs that were adopted by Grandma Ding.

Ding has been adopting strays for nearly two decades.

However, Ding is elderly and looking for someone to continue her charity work.

The government has no programs in place to help stray animals find a new home.

In fact, it has no laws at all concerning the rights and benefits due to pets.

This problem is in urgent need of a solution so that pets can have a brighter future.

— Kong Deying, Gao Runze, Lu Jiaying,
student reporters,
High School News Agency

CBA needs Chinese soul!

This year, Stephon Marbury, a basketball player from New York, led the Beijing Basketball Team to win the CBA (China Basketball Association) championship.

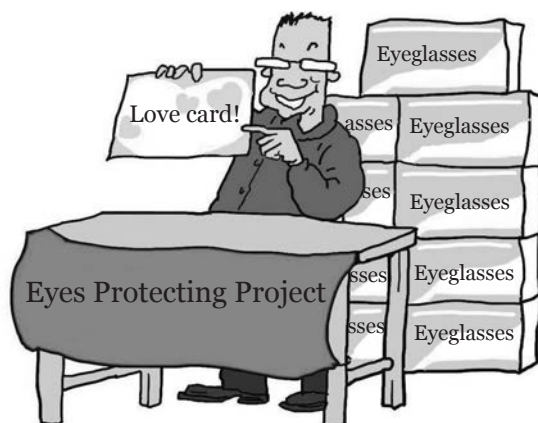
But have Chinese players progressed after playing with these distinguished foreigners?

The answer is no.

Basketball teams need to start earlier, scouting talent from China's senior high schools and tapping those players for national play.

Scouting the national and provincial junior teams is pointless, as these players are already professionals.

We need to develop a better system to cultivate young players if we want to



Illustrated by Chen Bing

see a strong Chinese basketball league.

— Li Shiyang, student,
Beijing No. 5 Middle School

When is the end of charity package?

Chinese people are puzzled, angry and upset.

Last year, we were con-

cerned about the copyright dispute between Han Han and Baidu, the famous Internet search engine that made thousands of authors' works free to download.

This year, we are more concerned about McDonald's selling expired hamburgers, fake fire extinguishers, poisonous toys

and reused medical waste.

Recently, a charity organization rounded up eyeglass vendors to provide free vision checkups to students and recommend that near-sighted students buy glasses. However, all the glasses turned out to be junk quality.

It's sad that charity has become a tool for companies to boost their profits.

That the high schools participated in the charade weakens their authority. I believe it is time for students to strike out and think for themselves.

Protecting the visual health of students is a serious issue and requires the attention of government officials, teachers and the students themselves.

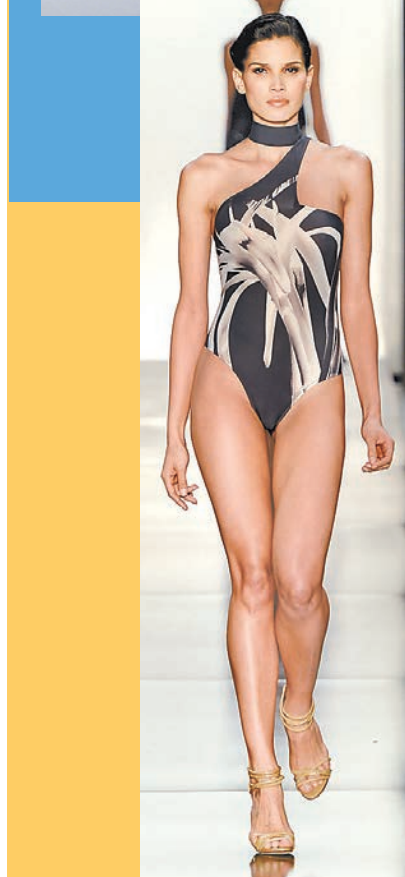
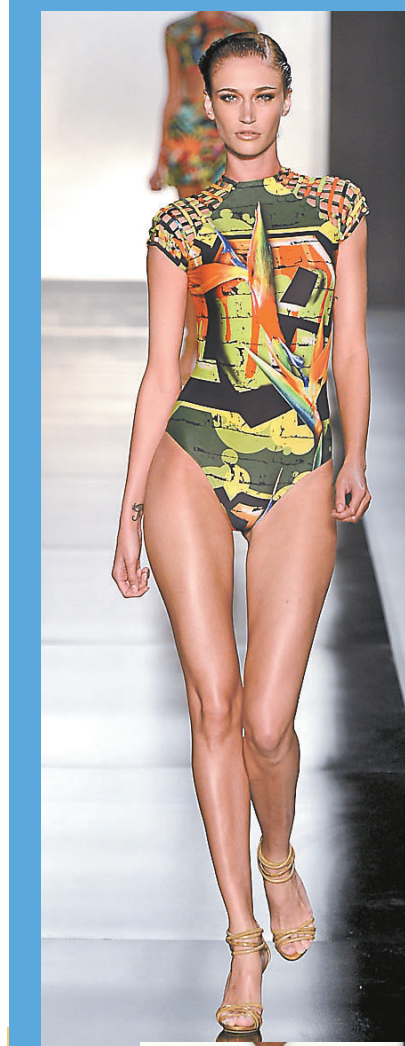
— Yue Qian, student,
Beijing No. 35 High School

Shine in pool parties

By Annie Wei

The outdoor pool season kicked off with the opening of Qingnianhu Park's water-themed area last Tuesday.

Beijing Today scouted places to buy swimming suits and get flawless facial skin for you to achieve the perfect look.



One-piece swimsuit with retro patterns



Must-have one-piece swimsuit

Take our advice: the cutest swimwear are the one-pieces. Although bikinis can be tasteful, a well-cut one-piece can better highlight a woman's curves and hide her insecurities.

The most popular ones include retro styles, like what you'd find on 1950s posters: white spots on red clothing with ruffles, single shoulder straps, floral prints and deep curving necklines.

The one-piece is also more suitable for those with less-toned muscles.

You can find denim one-pieces at Diesel (1,450 yuan) or white ones at Juice Couture (starting from 1,200 yuan), both located in Sanlitun North.



Photos by Victor VIRGILE/ Getty Image/CFP



Photo provided by Kora cosmetics

Flawless facial skin

There's an old Chinese saying that goes "no facial moles are benevolent." Face readers will tell you the same: moles block good fortune.

Although there are radical ways of getting rid of facial moles, such as laser treatment, doctors have warned that deep moles could leave scars.

Wang Bingzhi, who calls himself the "king of moles," runs a small home clinic in hutong with his son.

His reputation was built on word of mouth, especially among actors and actresses. He claims his procedures leave no scars.

He treats moles using a homemade medicine, a secret recipe that has been passed through his family.

After sitting down in his home-clinic, Wang will ask you to hold a mirror and tell him which moles you want removed.

The entire treatment is quick and simple. Wang pulls out a small balm bottle and dips the medicine on your moles two or three times. Each time, the medicine stays on two to three minutes. You feel a strange sensation, but it's not painful like laser treatment.

The bigger the mole's size and the nearer to the eye, the more you'll feel the burning sensation. Your skin will get red and a bit swollen.

"It is natural and the redness should be gone within 10 minutes of leaving here," Wang said.

Beijing Today sent a reporter who spent 1,500 yuan on 30 moles. The smallest moles cost 30 yuan to get rid of, but bigger ones can cost up to 150 yuan.

The small moles should be gone within a week, and the big ones might take a month. If your moles are not completely removed the first time, the next treatment is free.

Wang said after four hours of treatment, it's OK to wash your face, but soaking is discouraged. You can wear natural skin care products but not cosmetics. After the first two days, one should not eat soy sauce, garlic or ginger.

Wuziwan

Where: 3 Hetaoxiang, Yangrou Hutong, Xisi, Xicheng District
Website: wuziwan.com



Shanghai-style deep-fried river shrimp, price to be determined

New menu at Chyna

By Annie Wei

After three years, the Hilton Wangfujing is revamping its popular Sunday bubbly brunch. In the last three months, its new Chinese executive chef, Jiang Jian, has been working on new menus to introduce twists on Cantonese cuisine.

Jiang moved back from Macao, where he worked in several restaurants with Michelin chefs to prepare international-level dishes.

For appetizers, we recommend the Shanghai-style deep-fried river shrimp. The river shrimp is big and flavorful, topped with Chinese toon sprouts.

Tongao (chrysanthemum) with aged vinegar and garlic is refreshing and delightful. It's a simple Chinese-style salad: the aged vinegar and garlic gives the raw tonghao great flavoring. The chef uses a special recipe to make the vinegar and garlic sauce.

"The vinegar needs to be heated and sugar should be added" to offset the vinegar's acidity, Jiang said.

The sour fish soup is Jiang's newest creation. Most sour fish soups in town use fermented tomatoes, but Jiang uses laoza "fermented rice wine," fermented bamboo shoots and chili. The fish fillet is quickly cooked in spoil laoza soup to keep its tenderness.

The must-order at Chyna, though, is stewed pork ribs in red vinegar. The

meat melts in your mouth and isn't greasy. When the dish is served, delicate eaters may think they'll only try one bite, but it's more than likely they'll finish the whole dish.

The garlic crispy chicken is good too. Jiang said it takes four days to prepare: the chicken needs to be marinated first, then dried, roasted and fried.

We also like its Shunde-style fish head in casserole. Shunde is a city in Guangdong Province, and the dish is done in a traditional Guangdong cooking technique: without adding extra water, the fish head is steamed using heat and juice from vegetables placed in the pot, such as garlic, scallion and ginger. This allows the fish to retain its freshness and original flavor.

Jiang uses rice wine and ginger juice to fry gai lan, "a very common home dish in Macao," he said.

The new menu will be implemented by the middle of this month. Meat dishes like a fish head pot or stewed ribs cost around 100 yuan. The restaurant also plans to carry out 100 dim sum dishes and a business lunch set menu.

Chyna

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangdujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am - 2 pm; 5:30-9:30 pm
Tel: 5812 8888



Garlic crispy chicken



Shunde-style fish head in casserole



Inside Seagull Dining Room

Photos by Guo Yao

Rosti pizza in hutong setting

By Guo Yao

Tired of working in a hotel, Ren Yuanyuan and Zhang Li set their minds to opening a diner. Seagull Dining Room, a 12-square-meter eatery, was the fruit of their labor.

The restaurant is named after a warm-hearted Japanese film about food, and like the characters in the movie, Ren and Zhang cook all the food themselves.

It's purportedly the only place in Beijing to get rosti pizza (19 yuan for 7-inch, 39 yuan for 9-inch, 69 yuan for 12-inch), which was created in Germany. Unlike ordinary pizza, the base is mashed potatoes and it is eaten with a spoon.

Eight toppings are available: bacon, spicy bacon, black pepper beef, salami, chicken and mushroom, fruit, tuna and seafood. Each 7-inch or 9-inch pizza can be split into two toppings, while 12-inch pizzas can support three toppings.

Other highly recommended dishes include: tuna salad (16 yuan) and bacon and mushroom roll (16 yuan). The salt lemonade (10 yuan) and berry juice (13 yuan) are must-orders when it's hot out.

Reservations are recommended, as the restaurant has less than 15 seats.

Seagull Dining Room

Where: 70 Dongsi Shitiao, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am - 9 pm

Tel: 13466779421



Rosti pizza, starting at 19 yuan



Fried ostrich and mushrooms

Photos by Zhou Baoling

Workshop

Peter Carney's photography workshop

Peter Carney is an award-winning photographer based in Beijing with more than five years of experience working in Asia.

Culture Yard's photography workshops help students grasp the fundamentals of photography, give them confidence in using their camera and encourage them to develop their own

photographic style.

The photography workshops are held in a hutong and taught in a relaxed manner. Each includes an introduction to technique that is followed by a shooting and editing session in the neighborhood and surrounding historical area. Each student is given one-on-one time during the editing sessions to

allow for a comprehensive learning experience.

During the session, each location is introduced by Echo Wang to ensure the students have a thorough understanding and are able to communicate with the locals.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Beixinqiao,

Dongcheng District

When: Until June 23, full day photography workshop, 10 am – 6 pm

Cost: 300 yuan for a half day; 500 yuan for full day

Requirement: Student should bring their own SLR camera or use the workshop's equipment

Tel: 8404 4166

Dining

Dragon Boat Festival at the Ritz-Carlton, Beijing

In celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival, the Ritz-Carlton, Beijing has crafted a variety of rice pudding delights with traditional and authentic recipes by Chef Ku.

Create a custom package of delicious rice puddings for your family and business associates!

Rice puddings will be available at Yu from June 1 to 30.

Yu is a modern Chinese restaurant serving fine Cantonese cuisine, with seven delicate private dining rooms. A tea bar, serviced by a tea master, provides fine drinks to complement each meal.



Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, China Central Place, Chaoyang District

When: June 1-30

Tel: 5908 8111

Email:

rc.bjsrz.restaurant.reservation@ritzcarlton.com

Dumplings and dragons at Yao Chi

No one blends tradition with modernity better than the Grand Millennium Beijing.

Come to the hotel's Yao Chi Restaurant and celebrate the ancient Dragon Boat Festival with a modern take on Cantonese cuisine. From June 11 through 23, enjoy traditional rice dumplings in the most elegant of surroundings.

Where: Yao Chi Chinese Restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 11 to 23

Cost: six flavors of zongzi 188 yuan per box; eight flavors of



zongzi 228 yuan per box
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3013

Hotel



InterAction Council celebrates its 30th anniversary

The InterAction Council of Former Heads of State and Government celebrated its 30th anniversary in China in Tianjin from May 10 to 12.

More than 20 former heads of state and government met to discuss the present state of the world, the global financial crisis, global security imperatives and the global water crisis.

Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong delivered a keynote speech on the present state of the world at the meeting.

"It was a privilege to have so many noble former world leaders stay at Grand Millennium Beijing," said Gino Tan, general man-

ager of the hotel. "We are humbled to have such a significant gathering of wisdom that is focused on human and environmental responsibilities, and it is an honor to host them while in Beijing."



Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing honored as Beijing's best mid-range hotel

Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing was awarded as the "The Best Mid-range Hotel in Beijing" at the 5th annual TTG China Awards.

"On behalf of the entire team at Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thank you to everyone for extending their full support over the last six years," said Manson Li, manager of the hotel.

"Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing is a valued product in this com-

petitive environment. The hotel will continue to improve in providing better services and facilities to serve the needs of the business and leisure travelers," Mr. Li said.

The TTG China Travel Awards, now in its fifth year, celebrated 60 exemplary travel trade suppliers as determined by votes cast by trade professionals who are readers of TTG China, TTG-BTmice China, TTG Asia, TTG India and TTGmice.

Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing is located in Beijing's central commercial and shopping district. It has 216 rooms, including 16 spacious suites. The hotel also boasts a wide array of cuisines, including some of Asia's most exciting cuisines, served in stylish and comfortable surroundings.

Swissotel appoints Jan Chovanec as GM in Beijing

Swissotel Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce the appointment of Jan Chovanec as general manager of Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center.

Chovanec brings with him more

than 39 years of hospitality experience and first joined Swissotel Hotels & Resorts in 1998.

Prior to his current appointment, Chovanec was general manager of the Swissotel Krasnye Holmy Moscow, a position he held since 2007. In the last five years, he led the hotel's team to be named Russia's Leading Business Hotel each year, and Europe's Leading City Hotel and World's Leading Meetings Hotel in 2011.

As general manager of Swissotel Beijing, Chovanec will be responsible for overseeing the smooth and efficient operation of the property and planning and directing the hotel. With his extensive experience, Chovanec is expected to lead the hotel to greater heights.



(By Zhang Nan)



Fri, Jun. 8

Exhibition

"Movements" by Martin Klimas

Presenting his first solo show in China, German artist Martin Klimas's exhibition will bring together his *Kung Fu Warriors* (2004-2008) and *Foulard* (2011)

series. In the former, Klimas drops kung fu figurines and catches the moment they hit the ground, creating a powerful and unique image that brings out their fierce characteristics.

Where: Other Gallery, 706 Bei Sanjie Dong, 798 Art Zone, Jiuxian-qiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every day until June 10, 5-7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 9684

Concert

Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon

Erhu and fiddle player Tan Wei and the China Broadcasts National Orchestra, conducted by Tan Dun, will perform for Beijing audiences.

Where: The National Grand Theater, 2 Xi Changan Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30-10 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Sat, Jun. 9



Exhibition

Beauty by Chance

— Exhibition of oil paintings by Liu Zaijun

As a former soldier, it's no surprise that Liu Zaijun's works focus on the military, but they're anything but martial. They show soldiers pursuing their spirituality, morality and humanity.

Where: Times Art Museum Beijing, F36 Block D, CITC Plaza, No. 6A Jianwai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: June 9-11, 3:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 85679817

Fax: 65681868

Email:

info@timesartmuseum.com

Website:

www.timesartmuseum.com

Movie

"You Should Meet My Son"

Written and directed by Keith Hartman, *You Should Meet My Son* is an American family comedy from 2010. The audience is encouraged to discuss the film after viewing.

Where: Room 3C302, 3 Guangxi Jiayuan, Liufang Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

When: 6:30-9 pm

Admission: 10 yuan

Tel: 15810816163

Salon

Interpretation of Charles Dickens

To memorialize the 200th year since Charles Dickens' birth, Malcom Andrews will come to China to speak about Dickens.

Andrews is a professor at Kent University in the UK. He has written several books about Dickens, including his recently published *Charles Dickens and His Performing Selves*.

Where: Danxiangjie Book Store, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 3-5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6590 6903



Vanhall Gardens by Day

Sun, Jun. 10

Opera

Placido Domingo's Operalia

This is the final round of "Placido Domingo's Operalia," The World Opera

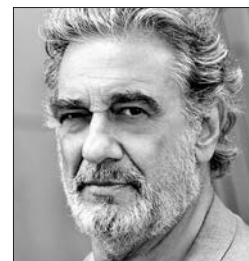
Competition. It was founded by Placido Domingo in 1993. The competition, which has attracted contestants from around the world, aims to find new opera stars.

Where: The National Grand Theater, 2 Xi Changan Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30-11:45 pm

Admission: 160-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000



Nightlife

Friday Metal Hard Core — DIMEFEST Vol:12

Organized by Dime Records and 13 Club, five bands are scheduled to perform: Ronnie's Will, The Psycho, Finger Gun, Tunshu and Shut Up

Mon, Jun. 11

Shut Down.

Where: 13 Club, 161 Lanqiyang, Haidian District

When: 10-11:30 pm

Admission: 50 yuan presale, 70 yuan at door

Tel: 8261 9267 (after 5 pm)

Exhibition

Spellbound — new works by José Drummond

José Drummond is a Portuguese-born artist who has lived in Macao for nearly 20 years. This exhibition is his first solo exhibition in Beijing and showcases more than 30 recently produced black-and-white photographic works inspired by anesthesia, dizziness and disorder.

Where: 706 Bei Yijie, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every day until June 24, 11 am — 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9625

Tue, Jun. 12

Concert

Jason Mraz's concert 2012

Jason Mraz, a singer and songwriter from the US, is best known for his live performances, combining folk, Latin and electronics.

Where: Workers Stadium, Gongren Tiychang Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30-10:30 pm

Admission: 380-880 yuan

Tel: 4006 103 721



Wed, Jun. 13

Nightlife

The Taste of Soul — Chicago Blues

The Taste of Soul is the only Chicago blues band in the Chinese mainland. It features Elliot Johnson, singer and guitarist; Liu Wen Thai, bassist; and Tom Wilson, drummer. The band plays typical Chicago blues, including shuffle, mojo and jungle beats.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9-11 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6401 5269 or 18610087613



Thu, Jun. 14

Movie

Cold Mountain

Released in 2003, *Cold Mountain*, a movie about the American Civil War, will be screened at the China Film Archive. It was directed and written by Anthony Minghella and Charles Frazier, and features Renée Zellweger, who won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA Film Award for her role.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7-9:30 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6225 4422



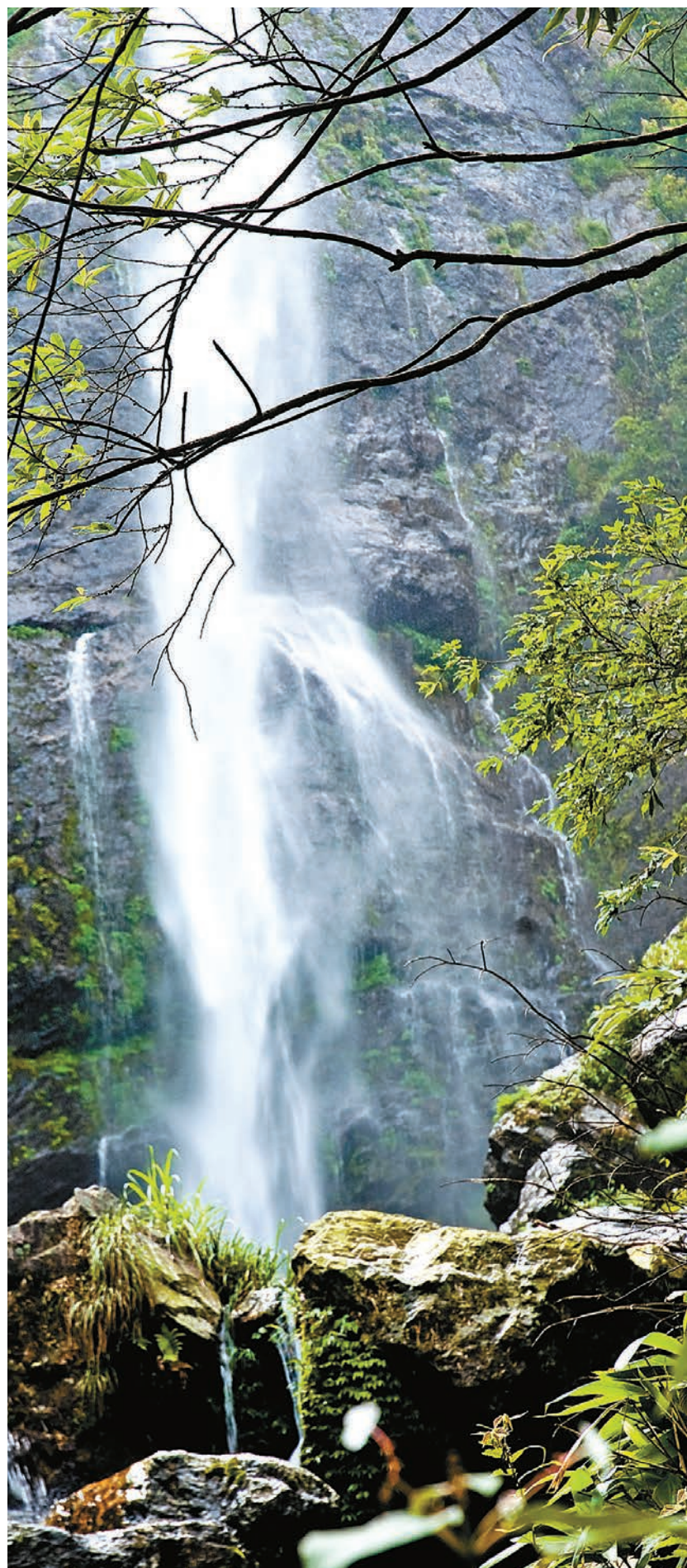
(By Liu Xiaochen)

Enwrapped in folklore, Huangsang is the perfect getaway

By Zhao Hongyi

Don't look now, but another hot summer is approaching, which means people will soon be scurrying for cool places to escape the heat.

Huangsang Village, a small mountainous hideout in Suining County, Hunan Province, has somehow managed to stay under the tourism radar. With forests and streams, not to mention cool, fresh air, it's a perfect getaway for those who need a break.



The Six Swans Waterfall and Cave

CFP Photos



Locals are beginning to tap into their village's tourism potential.

Surrounded by mountains and virgin forest, Huangsang Village has yet to open completely to tourists. The residents live isolated from the modern world, and the nearest town is 50 kilometers away.

Waterfalls in the village flow year-round. The travelers who do visit say they leave with a special feeling, as the water, stones and streams all seem to jive with the residents. There are also hundreds of plant types in the mountain that are used to make herbal medicine.

"I suddenly found the real me under a big tree here," a young traveler wrote on his blog.

The village has only recently begun promoting its tourism, so it remains relatively obscure. It's worth visiting before it becomes the next Yangshuo or Shangri-La.

The Six Swans Waterfall and Cave is a mystifying site that most people visit. In the center of the forest stands a huge waterfall and cave.

According to folklore, the seven fairies of the Jade Emperor of Heaven came to Earth and enjoyed the beautiful scenery here. They found the waterfall and took a bath in the pool underneath.

A woodsman, passing by, stole their clothes; the seven fairies were so embarrassed that they hid themselves in the cave, behind the waterfall – and have been there ever since.

There are two ways to view the waterfall: from the ground, where it looks like a strand of silk, and from the top of a nearby mountain, where the fall is surrounded by greenery.

Hemlock is the major type of tree here, and there are 38 hemlock trees that are more than 30 meters tall. They symbolize lasting love, after having stood for hundreds of years.

The mountain terraces are another specialty of the area. Each terrace has been cultivated over the past thousands of years, and the rice harvested from it has fed generation after generation.

An ancient independent kingdom once existed in the mountains, dominated by the Miao minority.

In the first half of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the Miao rebelled against the emperor under the leadership of Li Tianbao and set up their own kingdom in the year of 1457

(which was later suppressed by the central government).

Many of the defensive structures the Miao built have disappeared, though some ruins still exist. The locals are proud to mention that they once had their own autonomous kingdom.

How to get there:

Huangsang is ideal for individual backpackers instead of tour groups. Take the train from Beijing to Shaoyang City in Hunan Province. Then take a bus to Suining County and transfer to Huangsang Village.

Or fly from Beijing to Changsha and take the long-distance bus to Suining and transfer to Huangsang Village.

Accommodation:

You can book a hotel room in Suining County, but it's more interesting to live with local villagers in Huangsang Village, not to mention cheaper. You can easily find information online.



River rafting



Ti Tian, or terraced mountain fields